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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel without prejudice claims 1, 9 and 22, amend claims 2-8, 10, 11, 14, 23 and 24 and add newly written claims 25-30 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (cancelled).

2. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim ~~1~~27, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide said supporting surface.

3. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim ~~1~~25, wherein the ends of the beams flexible structure lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that, ~~in use,~~ the mirror is received within the body ~~of the holder~~.

4. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim ~~1~~27, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

5. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim 4, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

6. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim ~~4~~27, wherein the plurality of flexible beams are arranged around the entire aperture.

7. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim 6, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

8. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror ~~holder~~apparatus as in claim 7, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) A deformable mirror apparatus~~and a deformable mirror holder~~ as in claim 4, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

11. (currently amended) A deformable mirror apparatus~~and a deformable mirror holder~~ as in claim 5, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (currently amended) A deformable-mirror holder comprising:

a deformable-mirror holder comprising a rigid body with a central aperture for receiving a deformable mirror, the mirror having a deformation device for deforming the mirror attached thereto, and

a plurality of flexible beams around said central aperture for supporting said mirror at an edge thereof, each flexible beam comprising a means for supporting support for said mirror, said support and permitting movement out of plane flexing of said mirror edge when said mirror is deformed by said deformation device, said supporting means support including an end shaped to provide a supporting surface for supporting said deformable mirror and a flexible portion that links said end of the beam to said body of the holder.

15. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the flexible beams are co-joined to form a unitary structure shaped to provide said supporting surface.

16. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the ends of the beams lie in the plane of the body of the holder such that, in use, the mirror is received within the body of the holder.

17. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein at least one beam is generally L-shaped such that one leg of the L-shape provides the flexible portion and the other leg of the L-shape provides the supporting surface of the end of the beam.

18. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 17, wherein the internal corner of the L-shaped beam has a shoulder that extends part of the way along both legs of the L-shape.

19. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the plurality of flexible beams are arranged around the entire aperture.

20. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 19, wherein the width of the beams is larger than the separation between beams.

21. (previously presented) A deformable-mirror holder as in claim 20, wherein the width of the beams is greater than four times the separation between beams.

22. (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A deformable mirror ~~and~~in combination with a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 17, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by the other leg of the L-shaped beam.

24. (currently amended) A deformable mirror ~~and~~in combination with a deformable-mirror holder as in claim 18, wherein the peripheral edge of the mirror is supported from below

by one leg of the L-shaped beam and is supported from the side by an inwardly-facing side of the shoulder.

25. (new) Deformable mirror apparatus comprising:

a deformable mirror,

a mounting body having an aperture in which the deformable mirror is received, and

flexible structure extending across the aperture to the mirror, and

a deformation device for controllably deforming the mirror, the deformation device acting on the mirror other than through the flexible structure, the flexible structure having an end shaped to provide a supporting surface supporting the mirror, and a flexible portion linking the supporting surface to the body and permitting movement of an edge of the mirror relative to the body when the mirror is deformed by the deformation device.

26. (new) A deformable mirror holder in combination with a deformable mirror, the holder comprising:

a rigid mounting body with a central aperture, the mirror being received within the aperture,

a deformation device for deforming the mirror being attached directly to the mirror; and

a plurality of flexible beams around the aperture which support the mirror at an edge thereof and permit movement of the mirror edge when the mirror is deformed by the deformation device.

27. (new) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the flexible structure comprise a plurality of flexible beams, each said beam having said supporting surface and said flexible portion.

28. (new) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 25 wherein the flexible portion permits rotation of the edge of the mirror.

29. (new) A deformable mirror apparatus as in claim 25 wherein the flexible portion permits displacement of the edge of the mirror axially of the mirror.

30. (new) A deformable mirror holder as in claim 14, wherein the mounting body is a unitary structure.